March 17, 2008

GAE Committee Room 2200 Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT 06106

Re: misleading implications in March 13, 2008 extended testimony of Denise M Weeks

In Ms Weeks' testimony she "shares a few serious procedural lapses" under the section of "anomalies having to do with ballot security and chain of custody" Newtown is listed as one of the 6 towns.

She states" Newtown officials didn't use ballot bags. They used large plastic boxes to store ballots. They thought the boxes worked better than the bags that we have seen at other audit locations (easier to stack and were waterproof)." That is part of the truth. The large plastic boxes we use are the ones that can be purchased at Costco for \$5.99. They have a clear outside and the top is in two pieces. It is attached on each of the long sides on a type of hinge. The center is interlocking making the top crack an actual seal protecting the items inside. In the middle of the two short ends there is a hole, this hole goes through both pieces of the interlocking top as well as the lip of the clear plastic bottom. We place a seal on each end of the box. These boxes are the same ones that are used by law enforcement agencies for the chain of custody need for evidence.

We are very careful about our chain of custody, we have met or exceeded all requirements and very much resent the implications that we are not doing our job correctly. I have never meet or spoken to Ms Weeks to my knowledge. The couple that viewed our process appeared to think that these boxes were a good idea (maybe I mistook their comments). Before we bought these boxes we cleared them with the SOS attorneys.

We have a room that was built and designed us. This room is not used for anything other than our election supplies. The Registrars have the only access. All that has been asked of us has been met. We have shelving for the buckets so we can store them as long as is needed. We have temperature control to keep the machines in good working order. We have adequate plugs to properly charge our equipment prior to test voting.

I would ask that you find that Newtown did not have a breach in security and chain of custody and consider that if her testimony was misleading with us, is she misrepresenting any other towns?

I may be reached at (203)948-4253 with any questions or I would be happy to come up and speak and bring one of our boxes if you like.

Thank you for your time,

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